

[English]

Telecast of T.V. Serials on Culture

2834. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether some new T.V. Serials on Culture have been telecast by Doordarshan during last week of November, 1991;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether T.V. Serials on Culture will depict cultural heritage of all communities of the country turn by turn; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARIGIRJA VYAS): (a) to (d). Yes Sir. Sir. Doordarshan have started the telecast of a weekly cultural magazine programme titled 'Tana Bana' which would highlight the cultural heritage of different parts of the country.

[Translation]

Newsitem Captioned "Dollar and Pound Videshi Filmone Ke Jariye"

2835. SHRISIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item appearing in "Jansatta" dated November 22, 1991 under the caption, "Dollar and Pound Videshi Filmone Ke Jariye";

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the names of the films and foreign countries through which there is a likelihood of inflow of Dollars and Pounds in the country during the current financial year;

(d) if so, the amount likely to be released in Dollars and Pounds therefrom; and

(e) the details of future plans in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARIGIRJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Government's policy, in general, is to encourage shooting of films in India by foreigners.

Though permission has been granted to four foreign companies (since April 91 - till date) to shoot feature films, in India it is difficult to assess how many of these would actually be shot during the current financial year as there is always a time lag between obtaining of permission and actual location shooting. Hence it is also not possible to estimate the inflow of foreign exchange during to these shootings.

(e) There is a settled procedure for according permission to foreign producers to shoot feature films in India which is being and will continue to be followed.

[English]

Conversion of Telephone Exchanges Into Electronic Exchanges in Country

2836. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of manual telephone exchanges proposed to be upgraded to electronic exchanges in the country, this year;